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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/060,999	01/29/2002	Wataru Imajuku	13700-269580	8983

23370 7590 07/28/2003

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ATLANTA, GA 30309

EXAMINER

ZAHN, JEFFREY N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2828

DATE MAILED: 07/28/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Applicati n No.

10/060,999

Examin r

Jeffrey N Zahn

Applicant(s)

IMAJUKU ET AL.

Art Unit

2828

-- The MAILING DATE of this c mmunication appears n th cover sheet with the corresp ndence address --

Period f r Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.


- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 May 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disp sition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 13,14 and 22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13, 14 and 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.


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Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Pri rity under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seya et al (US 4956812) in view of Maluf (US 5731874).

Seya et al. discloses a wavelength selective device that includes a phase detection unit (22), a reference optical wavelength as part of the wavelength regulator (25; see also abstract) and the wavelength of the variable light source (10) is controlled according to the phase difference between the reference (25) and the output of the variable light source (10) (col. 2, line 52- col. 4, line 4).

Maluf teaches the use of a diffraction grating and detector array to monitor the wavelength of a beam. (abstract; see also Fig. 1) It would have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art of lasers at the time of the invention to modify Seya et al. to include the wavelength monitor system of Maluf utilizing the diffraction detection systems disclosed to better control the wavelength of a variable wavelength light source.

Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seya et al (US 4956812) in view of Maluf (US 5731874) as applied above, and further in view of Takeda.

Takeda discloses a reference signal generation unit (9) for generating a reference signal having a phase corresponding to a reference optical wavelength (col. 3, lines 19-36) and a phase comparator (10) that detects the phase difference between the two optical signals. It would have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in that art of lasers at the time of the invention to modify Seya et al. in view of Maluf to enable control of a variable wavelength source over a wide range (Takeda, abstract).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 19 May 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicant has made the argument that Seya et al. does not disclose elements having a function of producing periodic signals with a phase varied according to a diffraction direction of the diffracted light as explicitly required by the claimed periodic signal generation unit as defined in Claim 13. This argument is unpersuasive because the Applicant has not claimed any structure or structural cooperative relationships that support these functions; the Applicant has simply stated the functions' of an optical diffraction unit, periodic signal generation unit and phase detection unit. Accordingly, Claims 13, 14 and 22 do read on the prior art cited. If the Applicant wishes to use claim language without the recitation of structure 35 U.S.C. 112, para. 6, requires the use of a mean or step plus function format.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

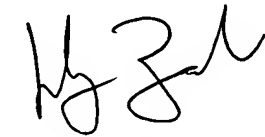
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey N Zahn whose telephone number is 703-305-3443. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8:30-5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Ip can be reached on 703-308-3098. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9318 for regular communications and 703-872-9319 for After Final communications.

Application/Control Number: 10/060,999
Art Unit: 2828

Page 5

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.



Jeffrey Zahn
July 28, 2003



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